

**REMARKS**

The final Office Action mailed October 22, 2002, has been received and its contents carefully noted. In order to advance prosecution, claims 40-44 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the title has been replaced, and abstract has been replaced and has been reproduced on a separate sheet as new page 36 of the Application.

**Claims 45-58 are now pending in the Application and are submitted to be in allowable condition for the reasons given in the Amendment filed September 12, 2002, the text of which is incorporated herein by reference.**

**The rejection of claims 40-44 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is moot in view of cancellation of these claims.**

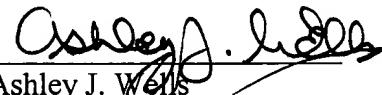
**The rejection of claims 40-44 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentably obvious over Ishiguro et al. (US 5,521,089) is moot in view of cancellation of claims 40-44.**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn, that claims 45-58 be examined and allowed, and that the Application be found to be in allowable condition.

Should the Examiner not find the Application to be in allowable condition or believe that a further conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of the Application,

Applicants request that the Examiner telephone undersigned Counsel to discuss the case and afford Applicants an opportunity to submit any Supplemental Amendment that might advance prosecution and place the Application in allowable condition.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley J. Wells  
(Registration No. 29,847)

VENABLE  
Post Office Box 34385  
Washington, DC 20043-9998  
Telephone: (202) 962-4800  
Direct dial: 202-962-4084  
Telefax : (202) 962-8300

DC2-DOCS1-423093